

**Preferential treatment to big firms**

878. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to accord preferential treatment to big firms for allocation of captive coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the fate of large number of small companies after implementation of Government's decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) It has been decided by the Government to give priority to the power and steel sectors in allocation of coal blocks. It has further been decided that preference in allocation should be given to power projects of 500 MW and above and steel plants with more than one million tonne per annum capacity. Small applicant companies which form a consortium for utilization of a coal block for their captive use are eligible for allocation of coal blocks by the Government. The demands of small companies can also be met through linkage of coal from Public Sector coal companies and through e-auction.

**Royalty on coal to Chhattisgarh**

†879. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to Chhattisgarh Government as royalty on coal during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the rate of providing this amount and when this rate had been fixed;

(c) the date and the basis on which Chhattisgarh Government have asked for increase in this rate; and

(d) the details of the reasons for non-acceptance of the demand for payment of price based royalty?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.